



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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AUGUST 15, 2005

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

UPDATE: PROJECT CEASEFIRE

BRIGHTON MAN SENTENCED TO NEARLY 20 YEARS FOR FIREARM; HOLLISTER, SPRINGFIELD MEN ALSO SENTENCED

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that three Brighton, Hollister and Springfield, Mo., men were sentenced in federal court today, in separate and unrelated cases, for illegally possessing firearms.

* **Norman Hardesty**, 34, of Brighton, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Fernando J. Gaitan this morning to 19 years and seven months in federal prison without parole.

On May 6, 2005, **Hardesty** pleaded guilty to two counts charging him with being a felon in possession of a firearm. **Hardesty** admitted that he was in possession of a Mossberg bolt-action .410-caliber shotgun, a Revelation .22-caliber semi-automatic rifle, a Marlin .22-caliber semi-automatic rifle, a Mossberg pump-action 12-gauge shotgun, a U.S. Model M-1 .30-caliber rifle and a Savage bolt-action 7 mm rifle between Feb. 25 and 28, 2004, in Greene County, Mo. **Hardesty** also admitted that he was in possession of a Super Dakota .44-caliber revolver on June 29, 2004, in Polk County, Mo. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any felon to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Hardesty** has a 1996 criminal felony conviction for escape from confinement, three 1994 criminal felony convictions for stealing, property damage and arson, a 1990 criminal felony conviction for burglary and a 1989 criminal felony conviction for burglary.

Hardesty was originally charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on July 12, 2004, in Springfield. That indictment was later replaced by a superseding indictment that was returned by a federal grand jury on Nov. 19, 2004, in Springfield.

This case was prosecuted by Special Assistant U.S. Attorney James J. Kelleher. It was investigated by the Springfield, Mo., Police Department, the Polk County, Mo., Sheriff's Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

* **Kenneth Dale Woods, Jr.**, 39, of Hollister, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Fernando J. Gaitan this morning to three years and five months in federal prison without parole.

On April 7, 2005, **Woods** pleaded guilty to four counts charging him with illegally possessing a firearm while being subject to criminal felony charges and also illegally possessing a firearm after having been convicted of a misdemeanor crime of domestic violence. **Woods** admitted that he illegally received and possessed a Bryco Arms .380-caliber semi-automatic pistol with ammunition on March 18, 2004, in Taney County, Mo. **Woods** also admitted that he illegally received and possessed a Keltech 9 mm semi-automatic rifle on Oct. 21, 2004, in Taney County. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any person who has been charged with a felony or who has been convicted of a misdemeanor crime of domestic violence to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Woods** was charged with the illegal sale of a controlled substance in 2004 and also has a 2001 misdemeanor conviction of domestic violence for assault and endangering the welfare of a child..

Woods was originally charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on Jan. 19, 2005, in Springfield.

This case was prosecuted by Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Michael O. Hendrickson. It was investigated by the Hollister, Mo., Police Department, the Taney County, Mo., Sheriff's Department, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and COMET (the Combined Ozarks Multi-jurisdictional Enforcement Team).

* **Jeremiah G. Adamson**, 29, of Springfield, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Fernando J. Gaitan this morning to one year and one day in federal prison without parole.

On May 5, 2005, **Adamson** pleaded guilty to being an unlawful user of a controlled substance in possession of a firearm. By pleading guilty, **Adamson** admitted that he was in possession of a Marlin 30-30 caliber rifle and a .25-caliber pistol on June 15, 2005, in Christian County, Mo. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any unlawful user or addict of a controlled substance to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Adamson** admitted that he was an unlawful user of methamphetamine at the time he possessed the firearms, Graves said.

Adamson was originally charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on Nov. 18, 2004, in Springfield.

This case was prosecuted by Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Christopher M. Nielson. It was investigated by the Ozark, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow